



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

DAVID C. HOLLISTER
DIRECTOR

April 12, 2005

Honorable Lorence R. Wenke
Chairman
House Higher Education and Career Preparation Committee
997 House Office Building
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Representative Wenke:

I am unable to attend today's committee meeting but wanted to share the position of the Department of Labor & Economic Growth with you.

Senate Bill 136—The department supports this bill. Recently, a person in our Human Resource Office received an e-mail advertising "A Genuine College Degree in 2 Weeks!" The advertisement continued that these degrees "are verifiable and student records and transcripts are also available". Such scams are an insult to Michigan's excellent institutions of higher education and to the thousands of students working hard toward degrees at these colleges and universities. We believe the bill is a constructive step in dealing with this issue.

House Bill 4008—The department supports the concept of the bill. However, we respectfully request an amendment to change the reference in Section 4 of the bill from the State Board of Education to the Department of Labor & Economic Growth. This function was transferred by Executive Order to the Department of Career Development and later to the Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

House Bill 4360—The department supports the concept of the bill. We respectfully request an amendment to page 2, line 9 after "excuse" to insert the phrase "but is not limited to". The reason for this amendment is that working in nearby Toledo, Ohio would be a valid excuse under the bill as currently written, but working in Ironwood would not be.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these bills. If you or the members of the committee have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Martin
Director